

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ A cover for a manhole top with a cover body [(12)] and with at least one locking means [(20)] arranged on the cover body [(12)], said locking means having a spring section (21 through 24) and, arranged thereon, an engagement section [(26)] that can be brought into engagement with a part [(36)] of a frame [(30)], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spring section (21 through 24) is attached by each of [its] two ends of the spring section to the cover body [(12)] and is otherwise separated from the cover body [(12)], and the engagement section [(26)] is arranged between the two ends of the spring section (21 through 24), and wherein the spring section is designed as an annular body, which is attached to the cover body by a retaining section that essentially joins the two ends of the spring section.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spring section (21 through 24) extends approximately parallel to the cover body [(12)].

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim [[3]] 1, characterized in that wherein the annular body has the approximate shape of a circle.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the engagement section is arranged at a location essentially diametrically opposite the retaining section.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the annular body ~~(21 through 24)~~ has the approximate shape of an oval with two, ~~preferably semicircular,~~ curved sections ~~(21, 22)~~ and two essentially elongated sections ~~(23, 24)~~ connecting these two curved sections ~~(21, 22)~~ to one another.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the retaining section ~~[[25]]~~ is located on one elongated section~~[[(24)]]~~, and the engagement section ~~[[26]]~~ is located on the other elongated section~~[[(23)]]~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elongated section ~~[[23]]~~ bearing the engagement section ~~[[26]]~~ is recessed relative to the ends of the curved sections ~~(21, 22)~~ that are connected by this elongated section~~[[(23)]]~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to at least one of the preceding claims, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the engagement section ~~[[26]]~~ has a wedge-shaped detent section.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the locking means [(20)] is located on the underside of the cover body [(12)].

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, in which wherein~~ the cover [(10)] is provided with stiffening ribs [(16)], ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the locking means [(20)] are located a distance apart from the stiffening ribs [(16)] on the cover body [(12)].

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~Manhole~~ A manhole top [[with]]
comprising:
a cover [(10)] configured according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims claim 1; and~~
[[with]] a frame [(30)] for accommodating the cover [(10)].

Claim 13 (new): The cover according to claim 6, wherein the curved sections are semicircular.